



Southeast News

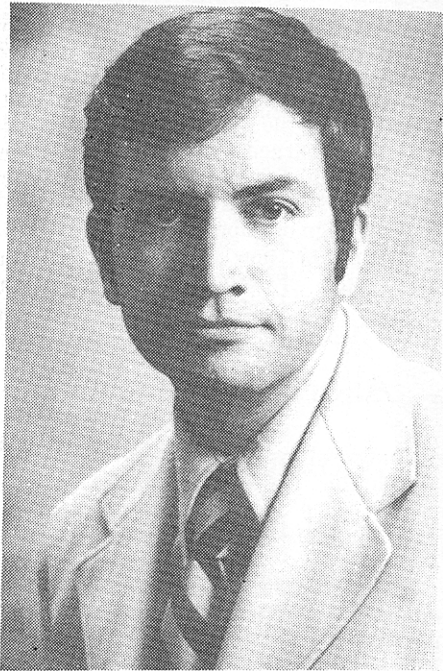
PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 26

JULY 1976

NUMBER 6



REV. LELAN McREYNOLDS

Nashville First E&R Welcomes New Minister

Rev. Lelan McReynolds began his pastorate on July 1 as the new minister of First Evangelical & Reformed Church, UCC in Nashville. Accompanied by his wife, Joyce, Rev. McReynolds moved from Venice United Church of Christ in Florida where he was serving as Associate Minister.

A graduate of Princeton University, Rev. McReynolds did his seminary training at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He is also a 1967 graduate of the University of Michigan Law School where he received his J.D. degree. He is currently a member of the bar through the state of Indiana.

Rev. McReynolds brings to First E&R a wealth of experience. Prior to his pastorate in Florida, he was the Associate Minister at the Coral Gables (Florida) United Church. He has also served as Minister to Youth at the First Congregational Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

[Cont. on Page 7]

"Heritage and Promise" Theme of Tenth Annual Meeting

Savannah and Midway, Georgia were the sites of the tenth Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, held June 11-13. With 188 delegates and numerous other visitors in attendance, this year's annual meeting was not only one of the largest, but it certainly was one of the most inspiring and enriching meetings of the conference in recent years.

While the necessary business of the conference was debated and addressed, the main impetus of this annual meeting was truly a Bicentennial celebration, reflecting the historical character and the major religious and political contributions of churches in the Southeast Conference. Delegates were awed and delighted as they encountered a living history of their own rich and vibrant religious heritage.

This special experience required preparations far exceeding those of any annual meeting in the past.

Conference meetings were held in four different locations. Delegates were bussed some 110 miles in three separate trips. Two delicious meals were prepared for the delegates at two different sites. Reflecting

months of careful planning, the conference was deeply grateful for the efforts of new Midway Church and First Church,

(Cont. on Page 2)



This year's Annual Meeting required bus travel as conference delegates were transported 110 miles for meetings in four different locations.



DR. DAVID BEEBE LEADS A "COLONIAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP" IN HISTORIC MIDWAY CHURCH.

'Heritage and Promise'...

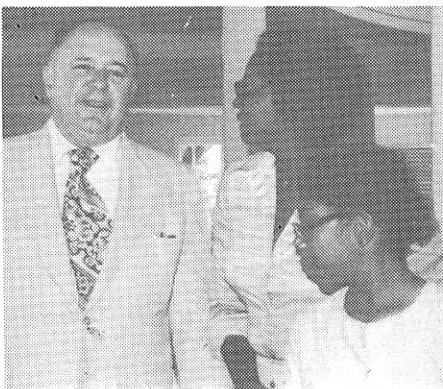
[Cont. from Page 1]

Savannah, who were co-hosts of the weekend meeting.

The work of the annual meeting began at the Savannah Holiday Inn on Friday evening when the delegates were divided into four "review committees" for the purpose of reviewing and critiquing the reports of conference commissions and committees.

On Saturday the site of the annual meeting shifted to First Congregational Church in Savannah. Following greetings from the Mayor of Savannah and an unusual "marching roll call" of conference churches, the delegates were introduced to United Church of Christ President, Robert V. Moss, who was a participant in the conference throughout the weekend. After a business session and lunch, hosted by First Church, Savannah, delegates boarded three buses for the trip to Midway, Georgia.

Arriving at the historic Midway Church, delegates entered the 190-year old structure for a colonial service of worship. Following an address from Mr. James A.



MR. JAMES A. MACKAY AND ADMIRERS.

Mackay, former U.S. Congressman from Georgia, the conference met Rev. J.K. Allen, pastor of First Parish Church in Dorchester, Massachusetts, the parent-church of the original Midway Congregation. Beginning in 1695, when its charter members departed from First Parish Church in Massachusetts, historic Midway Church went on to contribute two signers of the Declaration of Independence, four governors of the state of Georgia and over 100 ministers and missionaries of the Christian faith. The building ceased to be used in 1875 and has now been restored by the State Historical Commission.

Following this rich encounter with their religious heritage, delegates were then transported to the nearby Dorchester Community Center and new Midway Congregational Church, U.C.C. After the evening meal, prepared by the Midway congregation, conference delegates were treated to the gifted music of the all black Midway Community Choir. Responding to the various selections of spirituals and gospel hymns, the delegates gave a rousing standing ovation. As difficult as it was to follow, the Rev. Henry C. McDowell — former U.C.C. missionary to Angola — then provided another high point with a provocative and powerful address. Having encountered the historical past, as well as our living history, the conference was bussed back to Savannah after a full and fulfilling day.

On Sunday morning, the annual meeting again shifted back to First Church, Savannah. After the completion of conference business and the annual graduation ceremony of Ole Thermometer U., the delegates assembled for a most memorable service of worship. With music from the combined choirs of First Church, Savannah and Plymouth Church, Charleston, and with United Church President,

[Cont. on Page 5]

MIDWAY PLAQUE AFFIRMS HERITAGE

The plaque on the outside of historic Midway Church indicates how influential the churches of the UCC have been in the religious and political history of the United States. The plaque reads: "Midway Congregational Church. Erected 1792. Organized 1754 by descendants of an English colony which came first to Massachusetts, 1630; to Connecticut, 1635; to South Carolina, 1695; and to Georgia, 1752. Built on the same spot as the church which was burned by the British in 1778. This church has given to her country eighty-six ministers of the gospel and seven foreign missionaries. Midway, in St. John's parish, now Liberty County, was the cradle of revolutionary spirit in Georgia and two of her sons were signers of the Declaration of Independence."

Allen Represents Mother-Church of Midway

A very special guest at this year's annual meeting was the Rev. J.K. Allen, pastor of First Parish Church in Dorchester, Massachusetts — the mother congregation of the historic Midway Church. Speaking to the delegates, Allen noted that Midway's contributions in our country's fight for independence could be traced back to Dorchester First Parish Church, site of the first town meeting (1633) and first public school in America.

Ironically enough the contribution has been returned, for the present Dorchester Parish Church is constructed of none other than hard Georgia Pine. "This represents," Rev. Allen concluded, "the strength with which God's spirit goes forth in the life of this people."



Rev. J. K. Allen, pastor of First Parish Church, Dorchester, Mass., confers with delegates.

DELEGATES PARTICIPATE IN A "MARCHING ROLL CALL" OF CHURCHES

The opening of this year's Annual Meeting at First Church, Savannah, got off to a "rolling" start with an unusual rendition of the traditional "roll call" of churches. In keeping with this year's theme of "seeking the future through a vision of the past," the list of churches for the roll call was arranged not alphabetically, but according to the year in which the church was founded. As the name and founding date of their church was announced, the delegates of each church — carrying a placard bearing their church's name — marched down the center aisle of First Church accompanied by the joyful singing of the rest of the delegates.

Marching down the aisle were some 295 years of history. Listed below are the 75 active UCC churches in the Southeast Conference included on the roll call.

1681 — Circular, Charleston, S.C.

1850 — Jones Chpl., Woodbury, Ga.

1850 — New Hope, Roanoke, Al.

1852 — Fredonia, Barnesville, Ga.

1867 — First, Atlanta, Ga.

1867 — Plymouth, Charleston, S.C.

1867 — First, Chattanooga, Tenn.

1868 — First, Talladega, Al.

1869 — Antioch, Roanoke, Al.

1869 — Union, Tougaloo, Miss.

1869 — Howard, Nashville, Tenn.

1869 — First, Savannah, Ga.

1870 — First, Marion, Al.

1871 — Trinity, Athens, Al.

1872 — First, Montgomery, Al.

1873 — Kings Chpl., Alpine, Al.

1873 — First, Belvidere, Tenn.

1873 — Antioch, Andalusia, Al.

1874 — St. John's, Cullman, Al.

1879 — Midway, McIntosh, Ga.

1882 — Central, Atlanta, Ga.

1883 — First, Birmingham, Al.

1885 — Barton Chpl., Robbins, Tenn.

1885 — Community, Plst. Hill, Tenn.

1885 — C.C., Glenmary, Tenn.

1887 — C.C., Deer Lodge, Tenn.

1887 — Liberty, Brantley, Al.

1888 — First, Crossville, Tenn.

1888 — Macedonia, Braselton, Ga.

1888 — New Effort, Bonifay, Fl.

1890 — C.C., East Tallasee, Al.

1890 — Elder, Dadeville, Al.

1891 — New Hope, Clio, Al.

1891 — Fairview, Hackleburg, Al.

1891 — Mt. Grove, Hanceville, Al.

1891 — Bethany, Thomasville, Ga.

1892 — First E&R, Nashville, Tenn.

1892 — First, Evarts, Ky.

1892 — Federated, Demorest, Ga.

1893 — Forest Home, Roanoke, Al.

1896 — Bethany, Roanoke, Al.

1896 — C.C., Lanett, Al.

1896 — Plst. Grove, LaFayette, Al.

1899 — Oak Grove, Pine Mt., Ga.

1900 — Lowell, Roanoke, Al.

1901 — First, Richland, Ga.

1903 — United, LaGrange, Ga.

1903 — First, Columbus, Ga.

1903 — First, Caddo, Al.

1903 — Pilgrim, Birmingham, Al.

1905 — Mt. Lebanon, Steele, Al.

1908 — Rock Stand, Roanoke, Al.

1909 — United, Columbus, Ga.

1911 — Christian, Wadley, Al.

1911 — Evergreen, Beachton, Ga.

1913 — Rush, Atlanta, Ga.

1914 — Pilgrim, Chattanooga, Tenn.

1915 — Christian, Ambrose, Ga.

1918 — C.C., Garden City, Al.

1919 — Indian Creek, Brantley, Al.

1920 — First, Phenix City, Al.

1921 — Hillside, LaGrange, Ga.

1923 — First, Roanoke, Al.

1930 — C.C., Langdale, Al.

1942 — First, Alexander City, Al.

1943 — First, Andalusia, Al.

1948 — Bethel, West Point, Ga.

1950 — Todd, Shawmut, Al.

1953 — Brookmeade, Nashville, Tenn.

1956 — Ch. of Savior, Knoxville, Tenn.

1957 — Russell Woods, Phenix City, Al.

1960 — United, Huntsville, Al.

1960 — Carroll Heights, Atlanta, Ga.

1964 — First, Sweetwater, Tenn.

1968 — Bonanza, Jonesboro, Ga.



REV. HENRY C. MCDOWELL

McDowell Captivates Conference

On Saturday evening, the Rev. Henry C. McDowell — a retired UCC minister and missionary to Angola for 30 years — delivered an inspiring, yet powerful address to the delegates of the conference. Sharing all of the wisdom of his 84 years, Rev. McDowell reflected not only on the vitality of the nation, but on the hope which the Christian faith continues to provide.

Commenting on the state of the country, McDowell noted that "we are crippled at many places, but God has not finished making us" and he warned that "when we begin to expect deference for ourselves, we begin to decay."

Speaking as a Christian minister, McDowell reminded the delegates that "our task is not to be successful, but faithful . . . For if we can come to the place as Christians where we deal with one another as those who are 'in Christ,' then all other matters will work themselves out."



The Midway Community Choir featuring young soloist Terell Izzard.



A CONVERSATION WITH ROBERT V. MOSS, UCC PRESIDENT

One of the distinguished visitors present throughout this year's Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference was Dr. Robert V. Moss, President of the United Church of Christ. On Saturday evening, Rev. David Chandler and Rev. Stephen Gray interviewed Dr. Moss. Included below are excerpts from that interview.

Q. How has your experience at this conference meeting put you in touch with some of the resources for the United Church of Christ in the southeastern part of the country?

Dr. Moss. First of all let me say that I had no idea of the richness of the tradition of our church here as manifested by our experience here in Midway, Dorchester Center and at First Church in Savannah. I mean that I see real vitality, real relationship with community. I have met persons and I've come face to face with a whole aspect of our tradition with which I was not familiar. As a former southerner, let me say that I have been concerned about the pre-occupation of the South with the past. But the way in which the past is being celebrated and appropriated here at this conference, in the addresses we have heard and the conversations I've had, it seems to me that there is a sense of looking forward to the future.

Q. What are the responsibilities and duties of the President of the United

Church of Christ?

Dr. Moss. One way of answering that would be to simply outline what the responsibilities of the President are according to the UCC Constitution. First, I'm chief executive officer of the General Synod. It is my duty to see that the decisions of the General Synod are carried out by the National Agencies, conferences and local churches. Secondly, I'm supposed to be the Minister of the United Church of Christ. In that respect, I think that I have a responsibility to help the church recover its vision of the future as well as to rethink our church's call to unity. And finally, I have the responsibility to be the "ecumenical representative" of the United Church of Christ and that involves me deeply in the life and work of the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches.

Q. What expectations do you have about the proposed merger between the UCC and the Disciples of Christ?

Dr. Moss. I'm excited about the prospect. I met for several hours this past week with a representative of the Disciples Church to plan the meeting of the small committee that is supposed to design the conversations. We're committed on both sides to finding a new way to unity. But I see not just conversations confined to a national level as in the past, but concurrent conversations, meeting and sharing, going on at every level of the two



President Robert Moss [left] conferring with Rev. Walter Hall.

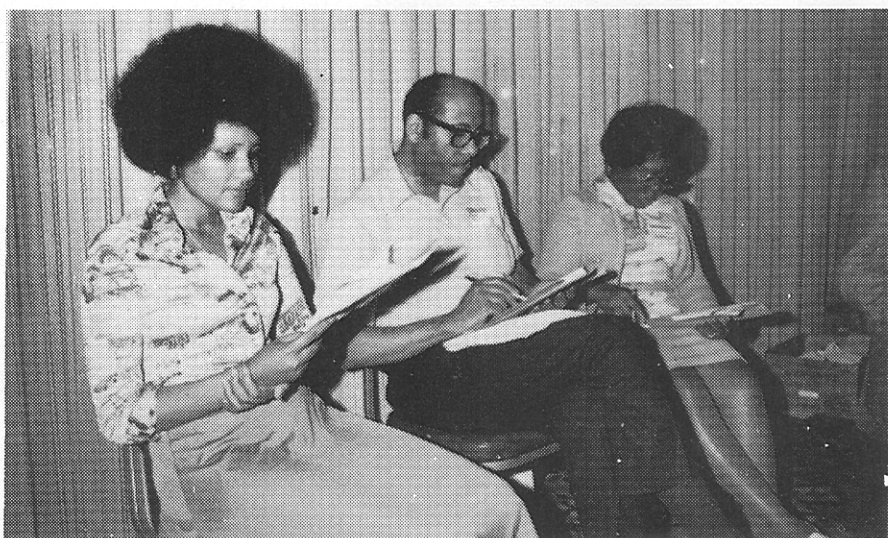
churches' lives with no time table really at the beginning.

Q. One of the priorities of the General Synod was "the vitality of the local church." What kind of vitality are we aiming for and what are some of the signs of that vitality?

Dr. Moss. There are certain indicators of vitality that I find in common. For one thing, there is a new understanding of leadership and it's the leadership of lay people and clergy together . . . the realization that the minister is not the sole leader in the congregation. And in that regard I have discovered a deeper sense of community than I've ever experienced in my lifetime. And then, I think another one of the signs of vitality is the recognition that the church does not live for itself, but lives for others. In so many congregations I sense the commitment to mission coming through.

Q. I know our readers would enjoy your sharing a little bit about your family, who they are and what vocations they are practicing?

Dr. Moss. Well, my wife is Junia. A lot of people say they've never heard that name, but they will find it in the 15th chapter of Romans, the King James Version. Junia is a public school teacher in early childhood education and loves her work. Our youngest lives with us and works for a large insurance company in the area of workmen's compensation. Our second son is a student at the University of San Francisco and is studying for his degree in sociology. He's a Vietnam veteran and was badly wounded in the war. As a consequence his education has been a bit delayed. Our oldest son lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is a member of the police force there and is attending college for a program in law enforcement. He and his wife are the parents of a baby boy, our only grandchild.



Mr. Franklin Thomas participates in one of four "Review Committees" which reviewed conference reports.

OLE THERMOMETER U. AWARDS DEGREES

The Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference was once again the scene of graduation exercises of that highly revered and venerable old institution — Old Thermometer U. Waiting with baited breath, the crowd responded warmly as degrees and other dubious honors were awarded to four extinguished and otherwise deserving candidates.

Raising the mercury on this year's candidates were President David Beebe, O. D. and Dean Warren Blankenhorn, D.Q.P. Noting the seriousness and solemnity of the occasion, President Beebe and Dean Blankenhorn suffered a slight mental lapse — not all unusual in these proceedings — in leaving their academic regalia and the school choir in the trunk of Pres. Beebe's car, which is painted with the school colors of chartreuse and plaid.

Nevertheless, noting the oversight to be more the rule than the exception, the President and Dean were not deterred in "laying on" and otherwise conferring degrees on the following chosen few: Ms. August Petty — Doctor of Hostess With the Mostest; the Rev. Ms. Cally Rogers — Doctor of Callyography; and United Church President Robert V. Moss — Doctor of Professorial Presidentiality. (Dr. Moss is joining the faculty this fall to Professor of Chair-ology to help the staff, students and the University's mule to make the proper distinction between chair-women, chair-person, chair-men and chair-creatures.)

Rounding out the ceremony on a Biblical



note, President Beebe presented Dr. William Andes with a live oak-leaf-cluster noting his 10 years of devoted duty to Ole Thermometer U. and the Conference. University Catalogues, issued only after graduation, were presented to the degree recipients after which the whole crowd raucously hummed and tongued the Alma Mater. Dean Blankenhorn then told those who were awarded degrees to go home and sin no more.



PRESIDENT MOSS RECEIVING THE FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD DEGREE.

Conference Minister Shares Good News

Conference Minister William J. Andes shared some good news with the delegates of the annual meeting concerning some promising aspects of the conference financial picture. He reported that as of the end of April contributions to the conference for Our Christian World Mission had increased by \$4,100 over contributions received last year for the same period of time. An increase was also noted for the O.G.H.S. all-church-offering: \$8,400 at the end of April compared with the 1975 total contribution of \$7,179. Likewise, contributions to the 17/76 Achievement Fund Campaign have increased \$2,600 over last year.

With the Outreach Commission's goal of an \$108,000 conference budget by 1980, these increases in giving are important signs of conference vitality and support.

Keep up the good work!

'Heritage and Promise'.

[Cont. from Page 2]

Robert V. Moss, delivering the sermon, the services culminated with the sharing of Holy Communion.

Reflecting on the experiences of the weekend, one of the delegates said, "This was such a grand experience. There was so much unity and fellowship. It's almost as though in looking at the past that we found a vision that will carry us into the future . . . Say, isn't that what the church is all about!"

First Year Promising

The Annual Meeting marked on the year since the formal completion of the 17/76 Achievement Fund Campaign in the spring of 1975. Since that time, the number of participating churches, associations and gifts has risen to 26. The corresponding increase in pledges has enabled the Southeast Conference to surpass by some \$5,200 its primary goal of \$70,000. Equally as promising is the rate at which pledges are being paid. While pledges are scheduled to be fulfilled over a three year period, over one half of the present pledges — some \$35,000 — has already been received in the Conference Office.

Nevertheless, while the conference has surpassed its primary goal of \$70,000, it has yet to meet its challenge goal of \$89,455. In the coming year the Southeast Conference 17/76 Continuation Committee will be seeking to carry the conference "over the top" and thus bring the 17/76 Campaign to a fitting conclusion

Ministers Thanked, Roasted by First E&R

A unique recognition dinner was held on May 14 by First Evangelical & Reformed Church, Nashville, honoring the ministers who have served in preaching and pastoral capacities since the church's pulpit was vacated in September of 1975.

Utilizing the energies of an abundant number of UCC ministers in the Nashville area, First E&R organized an interim ministry that was as effective as it was unusual.

In October of 1975, Rev. Stephen Gray — the part-time pastor of Brookmeade Church in Nashville — was asked to also serve as part-time interim minister of First E&R. As First E&R's interim minister, Rev. Gray responded to the pastoral and administrative needs of the church and scheduled a group of seven other United Church ministers to preach and conduct the church's services of worship. These seven ministers included Rev. Joe Ingle, Rev. Robert Hundley, Rev. Robert Utke, Rev. Mary-Lynn Ogletree, Dr. Oswald Schrag, Dr. Thomas Ogletree (Meth.) and Rev. William Hiles.

While Rev. Hundley could not be present, the remaining ministers and Rev. Gray attended the recognition dinner where they were kindly praised and duly roasted for their service to the members of First Church. On July 1 Rev. Lelan McReynolds began as First Church's new full time minister.

Lanett Hosts Senior Citizens

A one day trip to the Little River Canyon in North Alabama was sponsored and organized by Lanett Congregational Christian Church on Friday, June 18. The group — most of whom were senior citizens — not only visited two caves in the Little River Canyon, but enjoyed a picnic lunch as well.



Here registering inside the nearly completed new addition of First Church, Savannah are some of the 188 delegates in attendance.

HILLSIDE CHURCH HOSTS SENIOR MEMBERS

On Palm Sunday, April 11, the Hillside Christian Church of LaGrange held a special service for its senior members. The service was sponsored by the Board of Deacons and had as one of its major goals the gathering of as many ambulatory shut-ins together in worship as was possible. Prior to the service, deacons visited each shut-in and communicated the Board's concern to have each one present at the worship service regardless of the time, money and effort necessary on the part of the church.

The response was enthusiastic to say the least. Some came by car. The attendance of some required the availability of wheelchairs. One viewed the experience as being so significant that she chose to wear the same dress she wore on her wedding day. The ladies were given white carnation corsages furnished by the Women's Fellowship, and the men were given white boutonnieres furnished by the Men's Fellowship. After official clearance had been obtained from her doctor, one shut-in came from a local nursing home via ambulance.

Miss Jeanette Carr, a Licensed Practical Nurse and member of the Hillside Church, volunteered her time and was present in the service in uniform. In response to a request by Mr. Harvey Whaley, co-chairman of the Board, a local furniture dealer sent out eight rocking

Belvidere Youth Visit Cullman

The youth group of Belvidere United Church paid a visit on the Cullman St. John youth group this past June 6. Both groups met this past spring at the Ala-Tenn Mini Camp held in Chattanooga.

Following a joint Sunday school and worship experience at St. Johns, both youth groups ate lunch together and, following several hours of volleyball, sang together at a Cullman nursing home. One of the Belvidere young people said, "The closeness felt by the whole group was wonderful."

Transportation was provided by Mr. Eugene Matkins. Those making the trip from Belvidere were Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Matkins, Amy Matkins, David Shockley, Martin and Cindy Matkins, Dwight Shockley and Susan Zimmerman.

chairs for the special worshippers to use. The pastor even preached his sermon from a rocking chair. The Adult Choir sang special arrangements of "Amazing Grace" and "Let's Just Praise the Lord." The highlight of the service was the administration of the sacrament of Holy Communion. In this communion service, there was perhaps a deeper consciousness of who we are as a redemptive community of faith than we have ever known. Everyone concerned with this venture cooperated wonderfully. This service is one we will not soon forget. In fact, it is one we have soon rescheduled — in August!



Ecumenical Youth Empowerment Team

The empowerment of youth in the church has been adopted as a cooperative project of four denominational bodies in Georgia.

The Christian Church in Georgia (Disciples of Christ), Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, and United Church of Christ will begin the fifteen month program on June 14. The purposes of the project are to increase membership and participation of youth in the official-policy-making bodies of local congregations and judicatories, to offer training in youth empowerment to local congregations, and to involve churches in action groups developed around youth issues.

Three youth have been employed as full-time members of a Youth Empowerment Team. Carol Blakely, an Episcopalian, is graduating this year from Lakeside High School, Atlanta. Maurice Boler, a member of the Christian Church (Disciples), is completing his second year at Morehouse College, Atlanta. Cassandra Young is a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and a sophomore at Morris Brown College, Atlanta. Fred Harper of Macon, a personnel specialist at Macon Area Vocational-Technical School, will serve as part-time Staff Supervisor of the team.

The primary thrust of the project is directed toward small non-urban congregations in three geographic areas of the state, with some efforts being applied more generally to the state as a whole. The three target areas have been designated as Tara (a curved area reaching from Jonesboro to Winder), Coastal Georgia (from Savannah to Brunswick), and Southwest Georgia (including an area

Birmingham Pilgrim Church Turned on by Theology

Pilgrim Congregational Church in Birmingham sponsored a unique event in their Christian Education program by hosting for six days Dr. Eugene S. Werli, Professor of New Testament at Eden Theological Seminary.

Author of numerous books, Dr. Werli arrived in Birmingham on May 22. After preaching on Sunday morning, Dr. Werli spoke each evening at Pilgrim Church, Sunday through Thursday. In addition to a radio appearance and a TV taping, Dr. Werli also spoke at two luncheon meetings for clergymen and for Day School teachers.

Speaking on subjects ranging from the common Christian heritage of Biblical stories to the future of the United Church of Christ, Dr. Werli related each of his topics to Biblical events, ancient and modern history as well as our American heritage.

Response to Dr. Werli was overwhelming. Of the many people that returned night after night to hear him, one remarked that he spoke "with such knowledge and insight and with such humorous, warm humanity that every talk was not only an inspiration, but a delight."

defined by Thomasville, Albany, and Valdosta).

Direction and supervision of the project are provided by a Steering Committee composed of youth and adults appointed by the participating judicatories. National church staff with responsibility for youth ministry and other appropriate persons are included on the committee.

Mrs. Trudi Sanford of Atlanta, a layperson of the United Church of Christ, is Chairperson of the Steering Committee.

NEWS NOTES

A flag and thirty-foot flagpole has been contributed to Pilgrim Church in Birmingham. Making the gift were Mr. and Mrs. John Ensminger in memory of John's father, the Rev. Fred P. Ensminger. The flagpole will be installed this summer in the central strip of the parking area.

Nashville E&R. . .

[Cont. from Page 1]

While serving his last pastorate, Rev. McReynolds also was Florida Conference Registrar, State Youth Advisor and a member of the Conference Board of Christian Education.

On his first Sunday, July 4, Lee and Joyce McReynolds were welcomed by the members of First E&R by a "picnic on the grounds" following morning worship.



Scenes from one of the two Minister's Convocations sponsored by the Southeast Conference this year. The Minister's Convocation provides your pastor with a time for spiritual as well as educational renewal.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Second-Class Postage Paid at
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Published monthly October and
November; February to July, inclusive;
bi-monthly August-September and
December-January, by and for
the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

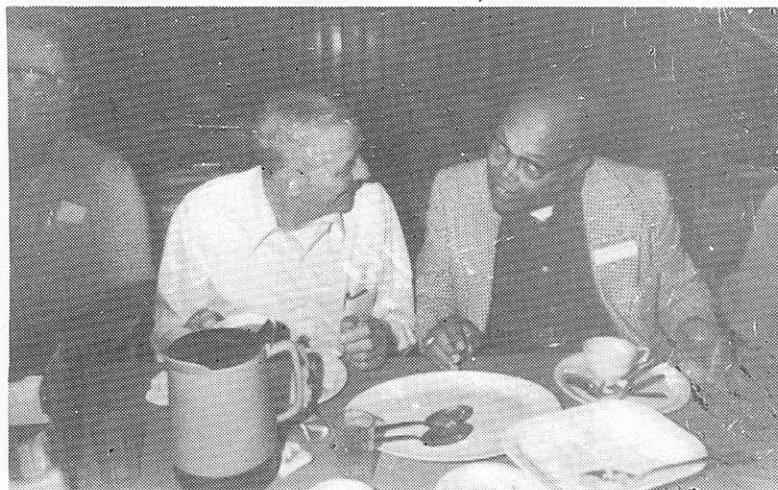
The United Church of Christ
2684 Clairmont Rd., Atlanta, Ga. 30329
Telephone (404) 633-5655

Subscription Rate — \$1.00 Per Year

Printed by The Roanoke Leader
Roanoke, Alabama

VOL. 26 JULY 1976 NO. 6

POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to
P. O. Box 29833, Atlanta, Ga. 30329



Brooklawn Celebrates 125th Year of Service

The 125th year of providing services to children and their families! This is Brooklawn's slogan in our country's Bicentennial year!

The Rev. Dr. Karl Ludwig Daubert, pastor of St. Paul Evangelical Church in Louisville, suggested to his congregation that: "Since German immigrants have been coming to this area in large numbers since 1840, it is necessary that special provision be made for the maintenance and proper teaching of the father and motherless children of these newcomers to the city.

The first orphan to find a home in the institution was Elisabeth Riester. The steamer "Midas", coming from New Orleans carrying immigrants bound for Cincinnati and other points, landed in New Albany. Forty passengers died of cholera on the trip and many more died shortly after landing. Mr. and Mrs. Riester were among the victims of this plague, and Elisabeth, their child, became an orphan."

This suggestion and this occurrence led to the establishment of the first health and welfare agency in the United Church of Christ!

Today Brooklawn provides services to children, youth and their families. As a voluntary, child-welfare agency, Brooklawn is an integral part of a network of services meeting personal needs in today's world.

America celebrates its 200th!
Brooklawn celebrates its 125th.

EAST ALABAMA WOMEN GIVE TO LIVING COIN

In the East Alabama Association the women have been giving 10c a week to be collected each quarter of the year — for The Living Coin of the United Church of Christ. The coin folders for this offering may be ordered from Mrs. John Dollar, Rt. 1, Box 119-B, Fairfax, Alabama 36864 or Miss Martha Lauderdale, 2211 51st St., Langdale, Alabama 36864. Funds collected may be sent to either of these ladies.

For the first year these funds will go to the First Congregational Church of Alexander City, Alabama, to help them in their rebuilding program.

Churches throughout the rest of the Conference are invited to join in this program to help our churches to meet needs which will benefit both the local community and our entire Conference.

"WAKE UP!"

Members of the United Church of Christ are invited to "Wake Up" and use materials on that theme in the first packet of CHURCH LIFE RESOURCES for Laity and Clergy prepared by the Office for Church Life and Leadership. This packet is now available; the second packet on identity of the United Church of Christ will be available in June. Order both packets for \$5.50 (incl. postage and handling) from Church Leadership Resources, Box 179, St. Louis, Mo. 63166. Money should accompany order.

*The worship-program booklet on the theme consists of ten programs prepared by laity and clergy from across the country. Copies of the booklet are available for \$1.00 each from the above address. Also in the first packet are pin, name tag, sticker and poster on theme and resources on hunger, worship, and Faith Exploration. These may be used in local churches for pastors, task forces, lay groups, youth, and in planning worship services, family nights, adult education or ongoing programs.

**"Wake Up To The World's Needs," a program in the worship program booklet, was contributed by Roland Kampmeier, Chattanooga, Tn.

"The Germans Are Coming"

The word to United Church of Christ members in this Bicentennial Year is a happy word of anticipation, "The Germans are coming!" And so are the Japanese, the Finns. Five youth from the three nations are coming as volunteers to work in the U.S. for a year in a variety of health, welfare, and community agencies and programs related to, or supported by, the U.C.C.

The Voluntary Service Program which brings them here is a joint venture of our United Church Board for World Ministries and our United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

If one or more of these volunteers is working in your area, you'll want to invite them to your church and get acquainted. You can make their welcome a real one.

Miss Michiyo Kawashima, Japan, will work in the Day Care United, at Elon Home for Children, Elon College, N.C. Others are working with emotionally disturbed children in Hoylton Children's Home, Hoylton, Ill., Brooklawn Children's Home, Louisville, Ky., Lititz Recreation Center, Lititz, Pa., and

A Note from the Pastor, Huntsville, Al.

Rev. Allen B. Hollis: When I arrived in Huntsville I was pleased to see the expanse of property upon which we can build. There is no doubt in my mind that we will erect a building. Indeed, the principal problem facing the United Church of Huntsville is an adequate church building in which to worship and to educate our children. Here we face, fortunately, no space limitation.

I know we can achieve the vision of an appropriate sanctuary and an adequate building. A realistic vision is necessary, however. We can dream too big and never reach an unrealistic goal. Or, we can dream too small and never emerge from our present cocoon with new life. Or, we can plan realistically and reach the satisfying plateau of fulfillment.

Before the cocoon can open, the new life inside it must be expanding and bringing pressure. Just so, a living congregation, growing internally, will demand breathing space. As we continue to grow there will be a way to meet our needs.

Our main problem will always be keeping the new life growing within the church. A congregation can be thwarted in its purposes much sooner from within than by all the exterior difficulties it can face. No living organism can live and grow if it tears itself apart. We must stay together, binding one another's wounds and supporting our weaker brothers and sisters while sharing our strengths. It is the loving nature of people who call themselves the United Church of Huntsville that reassures that the goals mentioned here will be easily reached.

Project Beautification is an expression of vitality of our people and their affection for our building. We can enjoy improving our present plant while we wait for the appropriate time to build.

In other news from Huntsville:

Summer services are set at 10 A.M. A nursery is provided for children through second grade — all others are expected to attend worship in the sanctuary. The Diaconate is working to locate and clarify the status of "conditional" members. 45 took part in the all-church campout at Thunder Canyon.

State-funded programs of Child Development Program, Lancaster, Pa.